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Le Bron's Heat at Boston,
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Thursday, July 29, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

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'Boca Bubu,' a site worth visiting!



Every Summer vacation, once a week, we go on an outing with the kids to relax and to teach them a little of our culture. Last week Tuesday was no exception. We went to the Historical Museum and afterwards to the beach.

The kids wanted to go to Malmok, where there is a cliff they can jump off and into the water. Upon arrival there we met with Mr. Bubu Marchena working hard with sledgehammer and chisel in the hot sun. He told us he is busy constructing a staircase on the cliff to make it easier to enter and exit the water. This is the second time he is making this staircase, as in 1978 he constructed the original one but with time it eroded and disappeared. Many times he takes his grandchildren to swim there and he promised them to rebuild the staircase.

In December 2009 he started rebuilding the staircase. Mr. Bubu thinks that in two weeks time he will finish his masterpiece. His only request to the Aruba government: please remove the rocks at the bottom of the cliff, as it poses a little danger when getting



into or out of the water.

Mr. Armando Curet of the Department of Public Works (DOW) and Minister of Tourism, Labor and Transport, Otmar Oduber has already promised to go there to check out the situation and analyze how they can help.

The Morning News asked

Mr. Bubu if the bay there has a name; he said no, it is simply called Malmok. So we decided to call it 'Boca Bubu' – Bubu's Bay. While we had a very pleasant time we saw many tourists and locals arrive there to swim and snorkel. A local site worth visiting!

Narrated by Olgita Berkley

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40 US billionaires pledge half wealth to charity

NEW YORK (AFP) – Forty of America's billionaires and their families pledged yesterday to give more than half of their fortune to charity in a drive organized by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.

The group includes CNN founder Ted Turner, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison and Hollywood director George Lucas, as well as Microsoft mogul Gates and investment guru Buffett.

The idea, announced just six weeks ago as "The Giving Pledge," was thought up by Gates and Buffett to convince billionaires to give most of their money -- 50 percent or more -- to charity.

"Forty of the wealthiest families and individuals in the United States have committed to returning the majority of their wealth to charitable causes," said a statement released yesterday by www.givingpledge.org. "The pledge is a moral commitment to give, not a legal contract."

"We've really just started,

but already we've had a terrific response," Buffett, the chief executive of the investment firm Berkshire Hathaway, said.

"At its core, the Giving Pledge is about asking wealthy families to have important conversations about their wealth and how it will be used."

Almost all on the list are self-made super-rich, such as media giant Bloomberg, and are worth about a billion dollars -- or far more. A few represent longer-established fortunes, including David Rockefeller.

US billionaires have been out of favor with the public and politicians since the 2008 financial collapse. The pledge scheme might burnish their image.

But apart from good PR, the scheme raises the prospect of eye-popping amounts of money flowing to charity.

Gates and Buffett are reportedly aiming to secure pledges from each of the approximately 400 US billionaires. If the entire group were to surrender half of its wealth that would amount to some 600 billion dollars, Forbes magazine estimates.

Gates, the second richest man in the world according to the Forbes 2010 billionaires list, has some 53 billion dol-

lars, narrowly losing his long-held number one spot to Mexican telecoms tycoon Carlos Slim, who has 53.5 billion.

Buffett, the second richest American, already announced in 2006 that he wanted gradually to give away all of his fortune estimated this year by Forbes at 47 billion dollars.

Rumors of the unprecedented drive first leaked in May 2009 when it emerged that Gates and Buffett had organized a secretive dinner for billionaires in New York City.

Ellison, the self-made man behind software giant Oracle, and with wealth estimated by Forbes at 28 billion dollars, called on others to join in.

Writing on the pledge website, Ellison said he had long ago decided to give away at least 95 percent of his fortune to charity and that he had already given away hundreds of millions of dollars.

"I will give billions more over time. Until now, I have done this giving quietly, because I have long believed that charitable giving is a personal and private matter," he wrote.

"Warren Buffett personally asked me to write this letter because he said I would be 'setting an example' and 'influencing others' to give. I hope he's right."

Wyclef Jean announces Haitian presidency run

WASHINGTON – Hip-hop singer Wyclef Jean announced his bid for president of earthquake-ravaged Haiti this week, Time magazine has reported.

Haiti, which was hit January 12 by a deadly 7.0-magnitude earthquake, is scheduled to vote on November 28 to elect a new leader to replace President Rene Preval, whose term ends in February.

"If I can't take five years out to serve my country as President, then everything I've been singing about, like equal rights, doesn't mean anything,"

Jean said this week.

There has been widespread speculation that Jean would seek the office. Last week in Haiti he said he was taking the necessary legal steps toward running for president, including having his fingerprints taken by the judicial police. However, he said last week that he had not made a definite decision.

Many analysts predict Jean -- who at 37 is very popular among Haitians, particularly the young -- would easily win the presidential election.

New U.S. envoy: FARC operates freely in Venezuela

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Colombian guerrillas operate freely in Venezuela and some occasionally appear in public in Caracas, a US ambassador-designate said in comments released yesterday that back Bogota's claim in a bitter diplomatic row.

Larry Palmer, who has been nominated as the US ambassador to Venezuela, made the comments in a written answer to questions from a US senator released yesterday, offering a more detailed explanation of Washington's view of the dispute.

Palmer said he was "keenly aware of the clear ties between members of the Venezuelan government" and leftist Colombian guerrillas, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

He said FARC guerrillas "maintain camps in Venezuela, and members of the FARC high command have occasionally appeared in public in Caracas."

"The Venezuelan government has been unwilling to prevent Colombian guerrillas from entering and establishing camps in Venezuelan territory."

The response released by Senator Richard Lugar was more specific than that from a State Department official last month who said that allegations that Venezuela is harboring leftist Colombian guerrillas in its territory should be taken "very seriously."

Palmer promised that, if confirmed, he will "continue to monitor closely other aspects of Venezuela's democracy that are currently threatened, including freedom of expression and of the press, the right to own private property, and freedom of association for civil society."

Despite the differences, Washington remains "open to a substantive dialogue" he said.

On July 22 Bogota accused Caracas of harboring some 1,500 leftist Colombian rebels, a charge fiercely denied by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. The charges deepened a rift between the South American neighbors and led to a break of diplomatic ties.

The Senate begins its summer recess on Friday, so a vote on Palmer's confirmation will likely have to wait until the senators reconvene until September.

Hope for Gulf as BP plugs well, most of the oil gone

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana (AFP) – On a pivotal day for the Gulf of Mexico oil disaster, BP plugged its stricken well while officials announced yesterday that most of the toxic crude has been cleaned up or dispersed through natural processes.

Though undoubtedly the best day since the disaster began more than 15 weeks ago, US officials cautioned that a great deal of clean-up work remained and that the long-term impact could be felt for years, even decades, to

come.

BP's long-awaited "static kill" was conducted overnight as heavy drilling fluid was rammed into the busted Macondo well for eight hours, forcing the oil back down into the reservoir miles beneath the seabed.

The breakthrough came 106 days after a devastating explosion aboard the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20 killed 11 workers and unleashed a torrent of oil into the Gulf.

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Pair of weather systems have slim chance of becoming depressions

MIAMI, Florida -- Two weather systems in the Atlantic and Caribbean have a slim chance of growing into depressions or tropical storms, the National Hurricane Center said.

The remnants of Tropical Storm Colin, which formed and then fizzled out was about 250 miles (400 kilometers) east of the Leeward Islands, the hurricane center said. The system was moving west-northwest at 25 miles per hour, and has a 10 percent of strengthening anew into a depression or tropical storm, it said.

"Although the associated

showers and thunderstorms have increased, upper-level winds are expected to remain unfavorable for redevelopment for the next day or two," the center said.

A second patch of thunderstorms in the Caribbean south of Haiti and the Dominican Republic was moving westward at 15 to 20 mph, and has a 20 percent chance of becoming a depression or tropical storm within two days, it said.

Neither system is close to the Gulf of Mexico, where BP Plc is trying to clean up the worst oil spill in U.S. history.

Plan for Dutch coalition backed by Wilders' party sparks concerns

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands - The prospect of a new center-right Dutch minority government backed by the votes of Geert Wilders' right-wing populist party sparked soul-searching in the Netherlands yesterday - even before formal coalition negotiations got under way.

Former premier Ruud Lubbers, who was asked by Queen

Beatrix last week with taking charge of stalemated cabinet negotiations, defended the proposal during a special parliamentary session.

"I had few options," Lubbers said.

A government featuring the Christian Democratic Appeal and the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy could hold a slim majority with 76 of

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150 parliamentary seats, if they are supported by Wilders' Party for Freedom (PVV).

But the PVV would not be a part of the new government.

Lubbers noted on Friday that the leftist and Green parties have declined to participate in the government.

"I regret that I can't recommend a wider basis," he said.

But the leader of the Labour Party, Job Cohen, accused Lubbers of not having explored all of the options.

He also criticized Christian Democrat Maxime Verhagen for on the one hand expressing "serious political and constitutional concerns" about Wilders' party - but nevertheless wanting to govern with his help.

The leader of the Socialist Party, Emile Roemer, also called on the center-right parties to abandon the plan.

Before the June 9 parliamentary elections, Wilders had called for mosques to be closed and a headscarf tax to be implemented, among other things.

Verhagen rejected accusations that he has betrayed the Christian Democratic principles of tolerance and religious freedom.

"Exactly because the PVV does not conform to our constitutional stipulations, it will not be involved in the government," said Verhagen, who currently serves as the country's foreign minister.

People should wait to form an opinion on the minority government until the coalition negotiations are completed, he added.

Long drawn-out negotiations to form Dutch governments are not unusual. Since 1946, the average negotiation time has been 87 days.

Dengue fever spreading in the Caribbean

ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN -- Health officials across the Caribbean are concerned about the near epidemic level of mosquito-borne dengue fever, saying it could get more severe as the rainy season progresses.

The high number of cases that have caused dozens of deaths across the area are being blamed on warmer than usual weather and an unusually early rainy season, which has, in turn, caused an explosion in the mosquito population.

In Miami: The Florida Department of Health confirmed an increase in the number of cases of dengue fever acquired in the Key West area.

New statistics from the department said 24 cases of dengue fever have been reported in Key West through mid-July. Of those, 18 involve Key West residents, five are residents of other Florida counties and one case involves a resident of another state. In addition, 49 so-called "imported" cases of dengue fever are reported in Florida. Those cases involved people who had traveled to areas under a dengue endemic, such

as the Caribbean or Central and South America.

In Mexico: A 47-year-old Juárez woman has been diagnosed with dengue fever, Juárez health officials said.

It is the first documented case in Juárez, but the woman is thought to have contracted the illness in the central Mexican state of Michoacán, said Dr. Roberto Suárez, an epidemiologist with the Juárez Health Department.

In Sonora, health authorities reported 65 cases of dengue through the third week of July, mainly in the state capital of Hermosillo and municipalities in the southern part of the state. In Guerrero, meanwhile, state health officials reported a 40 percent increase in dengue cases over last year's numbers. Most of the sicknesses were in the resort city of Acapulco. By the third week of July, the Guerrero State Health Department registered 2,491 cases, including six deaths. Nationwide, 8,850 dengue cases — including 16 fatalities — were tallied in the same time period.

In Trinidad: Health officials in Trinidad says four people have died from a se-

vere form of mosquito-borne dengue fever.

Chief medical officer Anton Cumberbatch tells reporters that roughly 600 people have been sickened so far in 2010 of the milder, typical form of the flulike illness spread by the bite of a common urban mosquito.

Belize recorded its first dengue hemorrhagic death in mid-July. Since then nothing was heard from the ministry of health on any concerted assault on the current dengue outbreak.

In the Dominican Republic: At least 27 deaths have been reported so far of the mosquito-borne fever.

Jamaica recorded 77 laboratory-confirmed dengue cases up so far as the virus continues its march across Central American and Caribbean countries.

Health Minister Rudyard Spencer told journalists at a press briefing at Jamaica House in Kingston that of the 77 cases, seven have been confirmed as of the more severe form of the illness -- the dengue haemorrhagic fever. Spencer, however, said no cases of dengue shock syndrome have been reported so

far nor any related deaths.

French Guiana, Guadeloupe and St. Martin also have registered a high number of dengue cases.

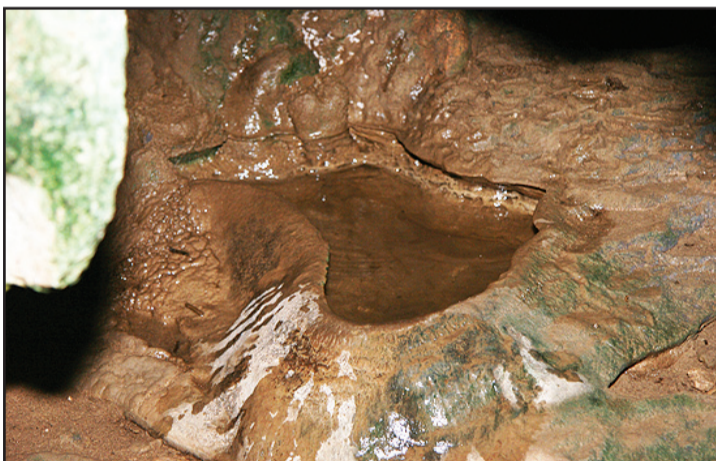
In Honduras: 21 people have died of dengue this year. Five more deaths are under investigation.

In Colombia: The deaths of dengue rose to 115 for 2010.

There are 112,702 cases reported this year, informed the Ministry of Social Protection, with 104,671 cases of the classic dengue and the other 8,031 with the hemorrhagic form that causes massive internal bleeding and bleeding from the body's orifices and can often be fatal.

Venezuela: Dengue fever has increased more than 80 percent over 2009 figures and almost 10 percent of the cases have been hemorrhagic dengue fever, which can be fatal. The states most affected are Miranda, Merida, and the Capital District of Caracas. The government has implemented a program to control mosquitoes by fumigating homes and destroying breeding sites, but the only sure way to avoid the disease is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

A must see while on Aruba! The "Fontein Caves"



Around the world, tourists do a lot of site-seeing. That's the way they learn about other cultures and their histories. Aruba offers a great sanctuary to lay in the sun and get a tan, but there is much more to this small island.

One of the island's treasures are the "Fontein" caves located in Aruba's National Park, Parke Arikok.

Aruba has a lot of caves, some are small others very big, some are under the sea others above the sea, in some of them Indian drawings were found while in others only a few fos-

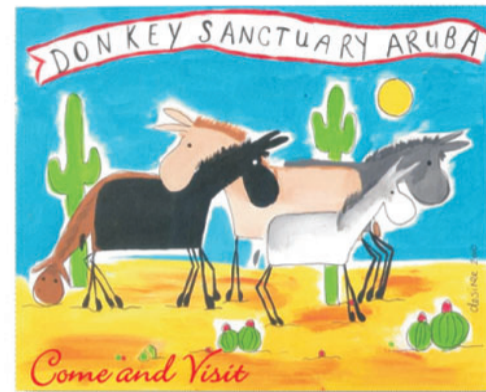
sils. Every cave has its own distinct uniqueness which sets it apart. The "Fontein" Cave (fountain cave) got this name because there is a spring water source in the cave. Years ago when there was no tap water the Aruban community got water out of the "Fontein" Cave. For safety they first boiled the water just to be sure the bacteria were killed. The area around the cave is very green because of the water as it is not only found inside the cave but also outside. It's nice to walk in the surrounding area where one can see the fishes in

the water, birds in the trees in complete serenity. The "Fontein" Cave was made by the power of the sea, a little bit strange when you see the sea 300 meters away from the cave. But Aruba has changed and is still changing, just like the whole world does.

The "Fontein" Cave is formed by coral, limestone and minerals. When visiting the cave you will think it is just formed by rocks, but once inside one can see how special it is as it changes all the time. In the cave there are a lot of bats, the long nose and long tongue bat.

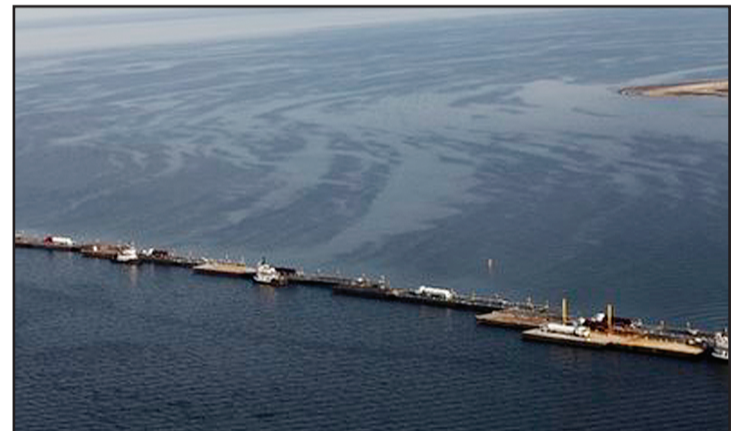
In the "Fontein" Cave Indian drawings were found, only at the beginning of the cave, meaning they used the cave only for protection against the weather. The drawings are probably made with iron oxide (extracted from coral) and from juice of the Brazilian tree. The rangers of Arikok National Park are protecting the drawings really good, because some of them have been completely damaged by the sea wind and humans. The cave is in a nature area, full of Aruba's flora and fauna. Sometimes the rangers catch snakes and they put them for a few days in a terrarium so tourists can see what lives on Aruba. You can visit the cave everyday from 9:30 a.m. till 4:15 p.m. And for the real cave freak, together with a ranger you can walk up to 250 meters into the cave.

"Fontein" Cave is one of Aruba natural wonders and is well worth a visit. Don't forget your camera!



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Gulf oil spill is worst accidental spill ever



Oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is seen approaching a line of barges and boom positioned to block the oil from reaching East Grand Terre Island, partially seen at right, where the Gulf of Mexico meets Barataria Bay, on the Louisiana coast.

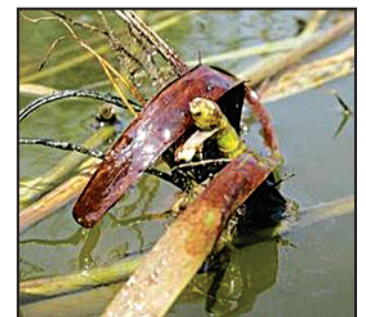


Thick oil from the oil spill floats on the surface of the water and coats the marsh wetlands in Bay Jimmy near Port Sulphur, Louisiana.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has become the largest accidental release of oil into water in history, according to figures from the federal government.

Federal scientific teams estimated recently that the ruptured BP well has spewed about 4.9 million barrels -- or 205.8 million gallons -- of oil. About 800,000 barrels, or 3.3 million gallons, of that were collected by vessels hired by BP to recover the oil.

That would rank it as the worst accidental oil spill in marine waters, surpassing the 1979 Ixtoc 1 blow-out in the Bay of Campeche, off the coast of Mexico. That accident



Oil clings to marsh grass in South Pass near Venice. spilled 140 million gallons of oil.

The worst oil spill of all time was intentional. It happened during the Gulf War, when the Iraqi Army purposely released 240 million gallons of oil into the Persian Gulf.



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El Nuevo Herald representatives visit Aruba



Recently, representative of El Nuevo Herald magazine of Miami visited Aruba. Celeste and Marlon Juarez were here on a familiarization trip to get to know Aruba for its promotion on the Miami market.

Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes functioned as host for the couple, taking them to different touristic attractions. Mrs. Juarez, a writer, noticed that

various activities are closed on Sundays. Considering that Aruba's main income is tourism, this can be a disadvantage; two days in a week is lost due to the weekends off.

Mrs. Juarez also commented that Aruba must concentrate on its service standards. Generally, Aruba is well prepared for any tourist event and the couple

was very impressed on the treatment they received. They expressed their gratitude towards their host hotels, Renaissance Beach and Divi Phoenix Resort.

Photos show Ricardo Croes with Celeste and Marlon Juarez on tours by Jeep Safari Tour of De Palm Tours and The Green Zebra and their visit at the Arikok National Park.



Schedule for the week of:
Aug 5 - Aug 11

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THE OTHER GUYS (ACTION/ADVENTURE AND COMEDY) - Detective Allen Gamble is a forensic accountant who's more interested in paperwork than hitting the streets. Detective Terry Hoitz is a tough guy who has been stuck with Allen as his partner ever since an unfortunate run-in with Derek Jeter. Allen and Terry idolize the city's top cops, Danson and Highsmith, but when an opportunity arises for the Other Guys to step up, things don't quite go as planned.

Science/Tech

Saudi Arabia joins UAE, bans BlackBerry services

Saudi Arabia has joined the United Arab Emirates in banning certain BlackBerry services.

The country's Saudi Communication and Information Technology Commission (CITC) announced Tuesday that it has ordered the three wireless providers in the region to stop providing BlackBerry services, effective Aug. 6, according to the Saudi Press Agency.

BlackBerry maker Research In Motion has not complied with CITC regulatory requirements, the commission said in a statement.

The move comes several days after the UAE announced plans to ban BlackBerry Messenger, e-mail, and Web browsing in the country effective Oct. 11. The UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) also said RIM is not in line with



the country's telecommunications regulations.

What that means is that RIM and BlackBerry services operate in such a way so that no one - from RIM to the government of Saudi Arabia - can monitor users' activity.

"The BlackBerry enterprise solution was designed to preclude RIM, or any third party, from reading encrypted information under any cir-

cumstances since RIM does not store or have access to the encrypted data," RIM said in a Tuesday statement. "RIM cannot accommodate any request for a copy of a customer's encryption key, since at no time does RIM, or any wireless network operator or any third party, ever possess a copy of the key. This means that customers of the BlackBerry enterprise solution can maintain confidence in the integrity of the security architecture without fear of compromise."

The CITC said it gave mobile providers STC, Mobily, and Zain three months to make sure RIM's services were in compliance with Saudi regulations, with a deadline of Aug. 6.

RIM said it offers one BlackBerry enterprise solution to all its customers, and does not favor one country's government over another. The TRA suggested that RIM had complied with regulatory requests in other countries, but RIM denied this.

"RIM cooperates with all governments with a consistent standard and the same degree of respect," RIM said. "Any claims that we provide, or have ever provided, something unique to the government of one country that we have not offered to the governments of all countries, are unfounded."

Gmail Attachments Can Be Dragged to the Desktop

Back in April, Google unveiled a new Gmail feature that let users attach files to e-mail simply by dragging them into outgoing messages, provided that your browser of choice was Chrome or Firefox 3.6. Now, you can drag attachments from Gmail directly to your desktop.

Announced on The Official Gmail Blog, this new Chrome-exclusive feature eliminates the need to click and then download files. You simply mouse over the "download" link that's included in the e-mail, and then drag the file to your PC. It's just that simple.

Google's post didn't mention this feature as one that's headed to other browsers, so at least for now it gives Chrome a unique trait that separates it from its Web browser rivals.

Meat from cloned cow's offspring eaten in Britain

LONDON (AFP) - Meat from two bulls which were the offspring of a cloned cow have entered the food chain in Britain, officials admitted Wednesday, as they continued to investigate further possible breaches.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) said that meat from two bulls, Parable and Dundee Paratrooper, "will have been eaten".

The animals were among eight cattle conceived using eight embryos harvested from a cloned cow in the United States, it said.

The news has fuelled debate in Britain about the ethics and safety of cloning, although experts insist food products from the offspring of cloned animals pose no health risk.

Under European law, foodstuffs produced from cloned animals must pass a safety evaluation and gain authorisation before they are marketed.

The FSA is responsible for authorising "novel foods" such as meat and other products from clones and their offspring and said it had neither granted any such authorisations nor been asked to do so.

Its investigations started earlier this week after a newspaper report that milk from the offspring of a cloned cow had gone on sale to the public.

But as it carried out this

investigation, it discovered that meat from Dundee Paratrooper, which was slaughtered in July last year, had entered the food chain.

Local council officials identified its owner as farmer Callum Innes of Auldearn in northern Scotland.

Hours later, it also confirmed that meat from Parable, which was slaughtered in May this year, was likely to have been eaten.

The FSA has also said Wednesday that it did not know how many embryos from cloned animals had come into Britain from abroad.

Investigations are continuing into whether milk from two cows also born from the US embryos had entered the food chain. Food products from the other four in the group have not done so.

Campaign groups for animal welfare and organic farming have voiced concern over the issue.

Compassion For World Farming highlighted risks to animal welfare posed by cloning, while the Soil Association voiced safety fears and said the use of clones could reduce genetic diversity within agriculture.

But the National Farmers' Union Scotland said there were "no risks" to human health posed by food products from the offspring of cloned animals.



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HEALTH - LIFESTYLE

Vitamin B may not guard against second stroke, heart attack

Stroke patients who take vitamin B supplements to lower their homocysteine levels may not be protected from second strokes or heart attacks, a new study finds.

Earlier studies found an association between homocysteine, an amino acid, in the blood, and an increased risk for stroke and heart attack. Vitamin B supplements lower homocysteine levels, but whether this really has an effect on stroke and heart attack risk has been unclear, the Australian researchers noted.

"B vitamins are safe, but they were not, statistically, significantly more effective than placebo in preventing major vascular events among stroke and TIA [transient ischemic attack] patients," said lead researcher Dr. Graeme J. Hankey, head of the stroke unit at Royal Perth Hospital in Western Australia. "B vitamins have not been proven to have a role in secondary stroke prevention."

The report is published in the Aug. 4 online edition of

The Lancet Neurology, and will appear in the September print issue of the journal.

For the study, Hankey and his colleagues in the Vitamins to Prevent Stroke (VITATOPS) trial tested whether lowering homocysteine with a combination of folic acid, vitamin B6 and vitamin B12 would lower the risk of a second stroke or heart attack in patients who had a recent stroke or transient ischemic attack.

In the trial, 8,164 patients were randomly assigned to daily doses of either B vitamins or a placebo in addition to standard care.

Over 3.4 years of follow-up, the researchers found the vitamins were no more effective than placebo. In all, 15 percent of the people taking B vitamins had a second stroke, heart attack or died, compared with 17 percent of those receiving placebo. B vitamins did, however, lower homocysteine levels.

People taking the vitamins had no adverse reactions and

the vitamins were well-tolerated, the researchers noted.

Despite these findings, Hankey isn't sure that B vitamins don't work. "Our study may well have been underpowered statistically," he said.

Had the trial gone on longer, a "significant treatment effect may have emerged, and has thus been missed in our study," Hankey added.

"I don't think it is the end of the road for B vitamins in stroke prevention. We need to see the effect of B vitamins in the three other ongoing trials, particularly in patients who have been treated for several years, and particularly in patients with stroke caused by small vessel intracranial disease," he added.

Dr. Larry B. Goldstein, director of the Duke Stroke Center at Duke University Medical Center, agreed that the question of whether or not B vitamins lower the risk of a second stroke or heart attack was not answered fully by this trial.

New heart valve taken from patient works best



PARIS (AFP) — Replacing the heart's aortic valve with one's own pulmonary valve rather than the same body part from a donor boosts survival and quality of life, according to a study released Tuesday.

Oxygen-rich blood is pumped via the aortic valve to nourish the body, while the pulmonary valve is the gateway for oxygen-depleted blood passing into the lungs.

Defects and disease can create the need for the aortic valve to be replaced, a delicate but standard procedure for more than three decades.

The new valve may be mechanical -- which is sturdy but requires life-long medica-

tion to prevent blood clots -- or a graft, taken either from a cadaver or the living heart's other exit valve, which is subject to less stress.

Earlier studies have not shown one method to be clearly superior to the others.

To compare the non-mechanical options for fixing aortic valves, researchers led by Sir Magdi Yacoub of Imperial College London fitted 108 patients with pulmonary valves removed from their own bodies, and another 108 with aortic valves taken from recently deceased donors.

All surgeries were open-heart.

After ten years, four patients had died in the so-called "autograft" or living valve group, as compared to 15 deaths in the "homograft" group that had been given a donor valve.

The survival rate, in other words, was 97 percent in the first cohort and 83 percent in the second.

"Our results support the hypothesis that a living valve implanted in the aortic position can lead to significantly improved clinical outcomes," the researchers said.

Discover the Treasures Across the Bridge

Balashi
Pos Chiquito
Savaneta
Cura Cabai
San Nicolas



Entrance to the inner Bay of Spaan Lagoon



The ruins of the gold smelter next to the Spaans Lagoon (Spanish Lagoon) and the Franse Pas (Frenchman's Pas)



One of San Nicolas' main attractions, Charlie's Bar in the mainstreet



Mangel Halto in Savaneta



House on the reef (Savaneta)

Crossing the Balashi Bridge to San Nicolas, you will find the Spaans Lagoon (Spanish Lagoon).

The Spaans Lagoon is the only inner bay in Aruba, resulting from rising sea levels after the last ice age. Spaans Lagoon is connected with the sea, but it is partially separated by a low-lying bridge. Located off the mouth of the lagoon there are several island keys, which together with the Spaans Lagoon area form a large natural ecological system.

Spaans Lagoon is a reef-protected area. The beach is accessed through the mangrove trees in Mangel Halto, on the east side of the island. It boasts

shallow waters and fine white sand. It's also an excellent spot to have a picnic lunch.

It is one of three Blue Flag beaches developing on the island. There is a gentle sandy entry to the water that is great for children and adults. Beginning scuba divers will love it and the snorkeling is excellent. It is also a wonderful area for kayaking. The Spaans Lagoon area flows into the village of **Pos Chiquito**.

Savaneta is a fishing village in southeastern Aruba. Home to the oldest surviving home in Aruba, it is the oldest town on that island and former capital. It was where the Dutch first settled after they recap-

tured it in 1816. It is said that Savaneta name became during the Spanish colonization in 1840. Savaneta means Sabana chikito (small savannah).

Heading east to San Nicolas you will encounter **Cura Cabai** located along the west coast of the island.

Driving further you will find Aruba's second largest city, **San Nicolas**, with the majority of residents originally hailing from the British Caribbean. The development of the city is undeniably linked to the oil refinery, the presence of which often stands in sharp contrast to the modest houses of the area and the picturesque beach spots

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Starboard Prokids IFCA Freestyle Championship



Starboard Prokids IFCA Freestyle 2010. The winners are, from left to right, Ezri, Rick, Hendryck, Dylan, Amado and Rafael



Baby kids, boys and girls who competed in the kids category. No winner was selected, they all received a participation certificate.

Last week, the island of Bonaire held its Starboard Prokids IFCA Youth/Junior Freestyle World Championship event. The weeklong event included competition, music, food and beach culture.

Along the Freestyle World Championship were slalom competitions in the following divisions: Youth, Junior, Men, Women, Master and Grandmaster. No less than 65 competitors from Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, England, Australia, Estonia and Belgium competed in the different categories.

At the start of the event wind conditions very poor forcing organizers to postpone the race for later in the day. But even with very poor wind conditions the competitors showed their low wind tricks, giving the judges a hard job with the high level of the competition.

The event ended last weekend with a tremendous bash on the beach.

Photos show some of the winners in the different categories.



Flow Style U11 winners (male), first place Alex Halank of Australia, second place, Oscar Etmont of Curaçao and third place, Nathan Finies of Bonaire.



Slalom U15 Girls winners: First place Amanda Westera of Aruba; second place Chanel Vrieswijk of Bonaire and third place Maxime Gent, also from Bonaire.

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Rice paddy art puts Japan village on the map



TOKYO, Japan (AFP) — A remote Japanese village with rice fields and not much else has put itself on the tourist map with eye-catching artworks painstakingly created one rice stalk at a time.

Best viewed from above, the sports-field-sized masterpieces of Inakadate village are created by more than 1,000 locals and outside volunteers using rice varieties in five different colours.

This year's motif is a 12th-century warrior monk battling a child swordsman -- but in the past the villagers have also used images of Napoleon, Mona Lisa and Mount Fuji as seen by woodblock print master Sharaku.

Tourists climb a nearby observation deck to marvel at the vast rice pictures, created on a 1.5-hectare (3.7-acre) field.

Pictures are made with rice varieties in ordinary green, as well as purple and yellow from old native varieties, red from conventional crossbreeding and a white strain that resulted from a genetic mutation.

The design is specially adjusted for best viewing from the deck, said village official Minoru Nakayama.

"If you were to see the image from right above it, the character's head on the farther

side from the tower would look oddly big," he said. "They are calculated to be true to the laws of perspective."

The rice paddy art, which started in 1993 in the village and has since been copied by scores of other places in Japan, drew 170,000 tourists last year to Inakadate, about 600 kilometers (370 miles) north of Tokyo.

But the campaign hasn't made the village rich.

Inakadate asks visitors only to give donations, which reached seven million yen (80,000 dollars) last year, most of which was spent on leasing the paddies, guarding the watch tower and buying the rice seeds.

The World Health Organization (WHO)

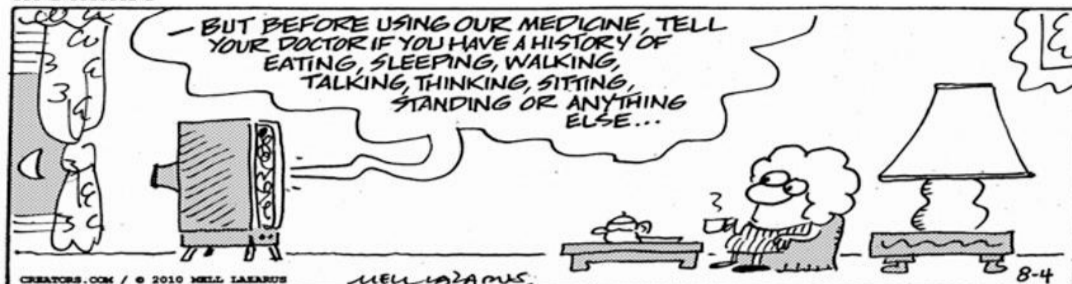
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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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ACROSS

1. Kismet
5. Shopper's walkway
9. Hunger sensation
13. Brainstorm
14. Assumed name
16. "I cannot tell —": 2 wds.
17. Circus sound
18. Washer cycle
19. Costa —
20. Make a mistake
21. Versifier
22. Piece of type
24. Meeting

26. Part of TV

27. Actress Blyth
28. Withdraw a claim: 2 wds.
32. Perfume
35. Cools one's heels
36. "O Sole —"
37. Patriot Nathan
38. Corridors
39. Stiff breeze
40. Donkey
41. Storms
42. Nips
43. Uses a ruler
45. Kid's gun
46. Pot covers

47. Mother and father

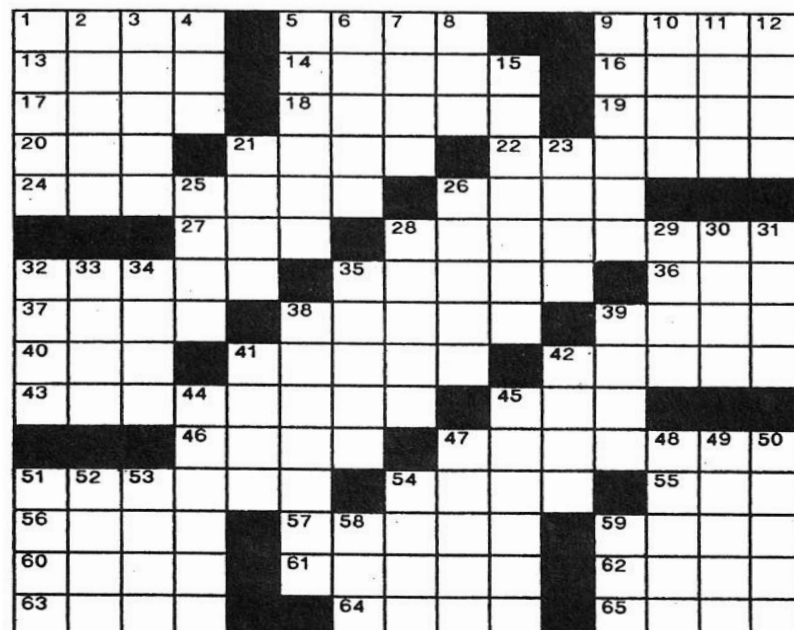
51. Clarify
54. Melt together
55. OPEC concern
56. Dry, as the desert
57. Asterisks
59. Departed
60. Soar
61. On edge
62. Shopworn
63. Catches butterflies
64. Having lived long
65. Soldier's meal

DOWN

1. Blazes
2. Worship
3. Signs of weeping
4. Corn unit

5. Dark red

6. Foreigner
7. Minute shreds of yarn
8. — Vegas
9. Separated
10. Dismounted
11. Pleasant
12. Cogwheel
15. Chooses
21. Half-quart
23. Deer
25. Rational
26. Coin-tossing choice
28. Bundles of cotton
29. Leave out
30. Gift for the host
31. Gives silent assent
32. Pretense
33. Lawyer's job
34. Actress Lanchester
35. Earnings
38. Most difficult
39. Towel dry
41. Destroy
42. Tedious person
44. Playground chutes
45. Overtook
47. Handbag
48. Slip-knot
49. Fork prongs
50. Children's Christmas gifts
51. Repair socks
52. New York canal
53. Clenched hand
54. Viper's feature
58. Steeped beverage
59. Bubble producer



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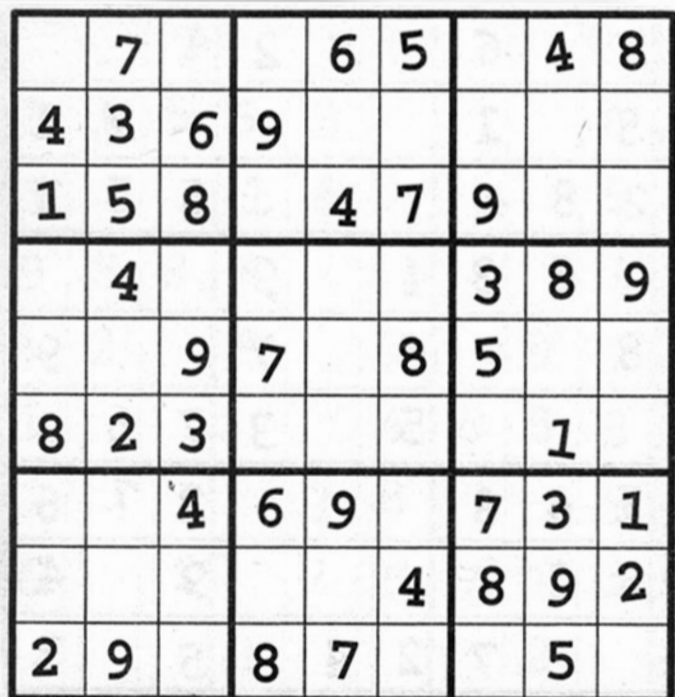
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	5	7	8	1	6	2	4	3
2	6	8	1	5	4	9	3	7
1	8	2	6	9	7	8	5	4
4	1	9	6	5	7	2	8	3
6	2	5	8	4	6	1	9	7
7	8	9	2	1	5	4	3	6
5	9	6	7	4	2	8	1	3
3	4	2	1	8	6	9	7	5
8	7	1	5	9	2	4	6	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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E	D	I	E		R	I	V	A	L		A	C	H	E
B	O	L	D		O	P	E	R	A		D	U	E	S
T	R	E	A	D	S		R	O	T	S		T	A	T
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A	I	L		S	T	U	D		A	M	E	N	D	S
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R	E	A	D		R	O	D	E	O		D	E	E	D

How to use millions of dollars of investment that dozens of companies have made in their customers... for FREE! - Part 2

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed attitude.

In this Tip, I'm going to go into greater detail about the Host-Beneficiary relationship.

Like I mentioned in the last Tip, all it takes is for you to sit down with a pad and pencil, and make a list of companies or businesses that are already selling to the customers you want to be reaching.

It's really that simple.

So here is what you say to the host business to set up a relationship. You can use the following sample letter.

"Dear (Potential Host),

My name is _____ and I own the _____ company. As you can see, I'm located near you and I had a thought that I'd like to share with you.

My company sells

(If the Host Company is one, which is located at a distance from you, then you want to state the specifics of your offer in this letter, if it is local then continue with this..)

I'll be calling you this week to discuss a proposal that will allow us both to gain a profit by working together.

Sincerely,

Your name"

Then when you call, you say:

"Hi Jack,
I hope you received my letter.

You did? Great!
The idea I had was for you to recommend my company to your customers.

We can do it in many ways, but what I will do is create a letter for you to put on your stationary, and I'll print them up and mail them to your customers.

All the expense will be mine.

In return I offer you another profit center.

I will share with you 50% of my profit on anything that your customer purchases in my store (Or whatever your business is).

If you have 1000 customers and only 10% purchase you could make as much as (determine the profit they will make on each sale).

Isn't that a great idea?

I'll stop by tomorrow and

introduce myself in person.

See you then."

Now isn't that simple.

If you're online you should research all the other web sites that you could do the same with, or even do an affiliate program with.

Affiliate programs are really just Host-Beneficiary relationships.

They are using your business to sell their product.

If you do this right, you could create hundreds if not thousands of new customers.

Don't forget that the Hosts have already developed a relationship with their customers and because they are endorsing your product, they have removed the risk factor for the customer in dealing with you.

I've even suggested to some of my consulting clients, that they give away the entire profit, as I talked about in the last Tip.

I've seen this concept create over 12,000 new customers for one client.

Do the math and you'll see what I mean.

And don't forget about the back end. These new customers will be purchasing from you over and over again.

Well that's it for this Tip. In the next Tip, we'll talk about how to get a profitable stream of referrals and customers.

To your success,

Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597

Email: ken@kenvarga.com

Website: www.kenvarga.com

BP partner refusing to pay 1.2-billion-dollar oil spill bill

WASHINGTON (AFP) - BP partner Anadarko has been billed 1.2 billion dollars to clean up the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, but will refuse to pay, according to company documents.

The Texas-based firm said it had received bills from BP totaling 1.2 billion dollars in documents filed with US regulators on Tuesday.

Anadarko had a 25 percent share in the Macondo well project that ended in disaster when the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig exploded over 100 days ago, spewing oil into

the Gulf of Mexico and creating the biggest ever spill.

The firm could be liable for a quarter of the clean-up costs, but said it will not pay because the spill was "preventable and the direct result of BP's decisions, omissions and actions, and likely constitute gross negligence or willful misconduct by BP.

"Anadarko has withheld payment of Deepwater Horizon event-related invoices received from BP as of the date of this filing," the company said.

July 20, 2010 file photo shows a sign outside a Harley Davidson plant in Wauwatosa, Wis. It's the roar that made Milwaukee famous — the distinctive throaty rumble of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

But that much-loved racket could be rumbling away to another state if the company cannot bring down its labor costs. Harley-Davidson warned employees in April that it will move its Wisconsin manufacturing operations elsewhere if it cannot cut millions of dollars at the factories that build the bikes known as 'Milwaukee Iron.



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cellent nightclubs and bowling club.

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Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Plain Pancake

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it was time to find out just

pizza is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain - to die for - Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the

sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

Gaza girls turn to fishing as rising poverty erodes barriers



Madlin (16-L), her brother Kayed (R - 14) and sister Reem (13), take their small boat to fish off the coast of Gaza City

GAZA CITY (AFP) - Every morning the two girls wake up before dawn, row their wooden skiff out into Gaza's heavily-patrolled waters, and try to catch enough fish to feed their family.

They are perhaps the only women in the territory of 1.5 million people who make a living from fishing, and are a rare sight in Gaza's conservative society where women rarely venture into the sea even to swim.

But Madeleine Kulab, 16, and her sister Reem, 13, have had few other options since their father was struck with palsy 10 years ago, and like many women in Gaza have had to work for wages once earned by men.

For the last four years Israel and Egypt have largely sealed the borders of the Palestinian enclave, ruled by the Islamist Hamas movement since June 2007, pushing the local private sector to the brink of collapse.

Gaza's unemployment rate hovers around 40 percent, with 80 percent of the population, including the Kulab family, relying on foreign aid.

"How are we supposed to survive without catching fish? My father has palsy in his feet and cannot work," Madeleine said as she and Reem plucked tiny fish from their nets on Gaza's sandy shore.

The girls wear jeans, long-sleeve shirts and headscarves, even while swimming, in keeping with Gaza's conservative customs.

"Life is hard, so girls like us have to work as fishermen despite the dangers," she said as she tossed the fish into a

bucket and her father, Mohammed, decided which ones they would eat and which would go to market.

The medium-sized catch of three kilograms of fish will sell for around eight dollars (six euros), and will have to support the family of five until the following morning.

The two girls and their brother Kayed, 14, fish up to a nautical mile (two kilometres) off shore and often dive into the deep waters to check their nets.

Larger boats can go further, but as they approach the three nautical mile (5.5 kilometre) mark Israeli warships turn them back with warning shots and occasionally seize the vessels as part of a naval blockade on the Hamas-ruled coastal strip tightened after the 2008-2009 Gaza war.

The vast majority of profits come from sardines and adult fish, which mostly swim further out. In recent years Gaza has started importing growing numbers of fish from Israel and Egypt, further squeezing the fishermen's livelihoods.

Last month Israel said it would start allowing all purely civilian goods to enter Gaza but the naval blockade remains in place and the economy is hamstrung by the lack of virtually any export channels.

The girls' father learned to fish from his father and grandfathers, who lived near what is now the Israeli city of Ashkelon before they fled during the 1948 war that attended the creation of the Jewish state.

"I taught Madeleine and Reem how to swim and fish

so they could support themselves," Mohammed, 52, says. "The priority should be for them to finish their studies, but what can I do?"

The children are only able to fish for a couple of hours before school on weekdays, but sometimes they go back out in the evenings.

"I work for an hour or two and then I go to school. I always have my uniform and my school bag with me so I am ready to go," Reem said as the family lit a cooking fire to make breakfast.

She loves the ocean but hopes one day to finish her studies and become a journalist. "I want to focus on the suffering of people like us, because life has been really unfair to us," she said as she stoked the fire.

Mohammed hopes his children can keep up the family tradition. He has a larger boat that in better times could make for a profitable business, but the engine needs a 500-dollar (380 euros) part which he cannot afford.

"I hope when my kids grow up they can use it," he said.

The girls defy traditional roles in Gaza's conservative Muslim society, but the residents of their poor seaside neighbourhood, who share their predicament, have been supportive.

"There is no shame in work," says Mohammed Jahjuh, 19, another fisherman. "We live with more dignity than beggars."

Hassan Siyam, 20, a friend of the family who has helped the girls from time to time, understands their struggle.

"There is nothing here for young people," he said. "My father is unemployed, and that's what forced me five years ago to go to the sea and fish in order to support my family."

The girls know their trade is risky, and at times they have had to ditch their nets and race back to shore at the sound of Israeli gunfire. Both know of fishermen who have been shot and wounded out at sea.

"Sometimes I get really scared," Reem said. "But I am not ashamed around my friends at school because I help my father and my siblings, and I am reducing the burden on my mother."

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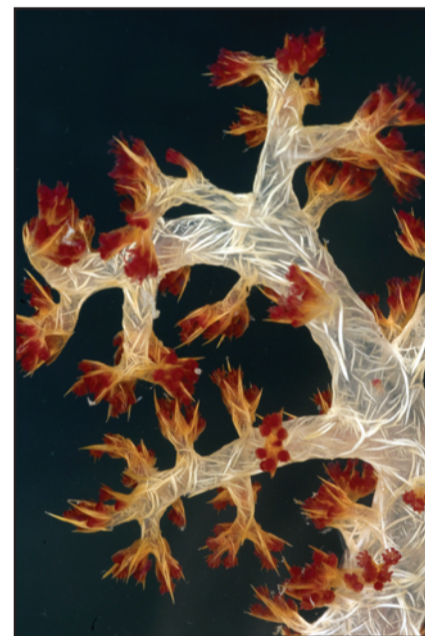
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Marine life census shines light on biodiversity of the seas



(FILES) This undated file handout picture released by the University of Melbourne on September 19, 2008, shows a piece of soft coral. Australia and Japan boast some of the planet's most diverse oceans but thousands of organisms remain unknown to science

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Crabs, lobsters and other crustaceans represent the most common species in the world's seas, and the waters of Australia and Japan are the most diverse, according to a vast inventory of marine life published Monday.

"We have made discoveries. We have learned new things," Jesse Ausubel, co-founder of the Census of Marine Life project, which compiled the roll call of life in the sea, told AFP.

Australian and Japanese waters each feature almost 33,000 forms of life that have earned the status of "species."

The waters off China, the Mediterranean Sea and Gulf of Mexico also feature in the top five in terms of biodiversity, says the preliminary census published in the open-access Public Library of Science (PLOS ONE).

The roll call is the result of a 10-year project by 360 scientists at a cost of 650 million dollars.

The scientists combined information that had been collected over centuries with data obtained during the decade-long census to

create a list of species in 25 regions, from the Antarctic to the Arctic via the world's temperate and tropical seas.

The inventory will be complemented with information still being gathered in areas such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Madagascar and the Arabian Sea in an even larger work which will be released in October.

Even then, the inventory will be incomplete, said Nancy Knowlton of the Smithsonian Institution and leader of the census project on coral reefs.

"The ocean is simply so vast that after 10 years of hard work, we still have only snapshots, though sometimes detailed, of what the sea contains," Knowlton said.

So far, the study has found an average of 10,750 known, named species in a given region, and the census-takers believe that for every known species, there are at least four yet to be discovered.

LeBron's Heat at Boston, Yao's Rockets at LA in openers



NEW YORK (AFP) - LeBron James, the two-time NBA Most Valuable Player who left Cleveland for Miami in July, will make his debut for the Heat at Boston on October 26 in the NBA season opener, the league announced Tuesday.

James joined pals Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh on the Heat roster and was joined by

Lithuanian center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, another former Cavaliers star, on a Heat squad that is expected to challenge for the championship in 2011.

Miami will meet the reigning Eastern Conference champion Celtics - led by Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, Rajon Rondo and Ray Allen. They pushed the Los Angeles

Lakers to the seven-game limit before losing the NBA Finals last June.

James and the Heat will visit Kobe Bryant and the Lakers on December 25 in a Christmas showdown that tops five NBA games to be played on the holiday.

The Lakers will also play on the NBA's opening night, starting their quest for a third consecutive league crown at home against Houston in what is expected to be Yao Ming's return for the Rockets after missing all of last season.

Chinese star center Yao was sidelined after foot surgery but a healthy return could signal a resurgence for the Rockets, who will be spectators as the Lakers raise a championship banner to the rafters of their home arena.

The night after the season openers will feature games between some of the NBA's most talented young players, with NBA scoring champion Kevin Durant leading the Oklahoma City Thunder against visiting Chicago and top draft pick Blake Griffin debuting at home for the Los Angeles Clippers against Portland.

The Orlando Magic will open a new home arena on October 28 when the Washington Wizards visit. The same night will see Canadian star Steve Nash lead the Phoenix Suns into Utah.

The next night, James and the Heat will play host to Dwight Howard and the Magic while the Lakers visit the Suns in a rematch between last season's Western Conference finalists.

Houston will play host to Denver on October 30 with Utah at Oklahoma City the following night and Portland traveling to Chicago on November 1.

Christmas games in addition to the marquee Miami at Lakers matchup include Orlando at Boston, Chicago at New York, Denver at Oklahoma City and Portland at Golden State.

The US Martin Luther King Jr holiday on January 17 features a full schedule of NBA games, with the most compelling being Oklahoma City at the Lakers in a rematch of a tight first-round playoff matchup from last season, and Orlando at Boston in a rematch of last season's Eastern Conference finals.

A complete NBA regular-season programme will be announced next Tuesday.

Sacked Maradona in frame to succeed himself



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Diego Maradona, sacked as coach of Argentina only last week, is in the frame to succeed himself, it emerged here on Wednesday in the latest twist in the saga involving the footballing icon.

According to Ernesto Cherquis Bialo, Argentina Football Association (AFA) spokesman, Maradona's name is among the list of candidates to fill the vacant coaching position.

"Diego has never gone away and he is still arriving," Bialo told radio station Ten, paraphrasing the lyrics of a famous tango dance.

Bialo said that the identity of the new manager would be

revealed in October.

He added: "Nobody's name is forbidden, nor the support for anyone assured."

The possibility of Maradona being reappointed to the job he held for 18 months comes as an unexpected development following his dismissal in the wake of Argentina's 4-0 defeat to Germany in the World Cup quarter-finals.

His sacking prompted a backlash of bitter recriminations from the 1986 World Cup winner who claimed that he had been "lied" to by AFA president Julio Grondona and "betrayed" by team manager Carlos Bilardo.

He blamed the pair for plotting his downfall, claiming that they had gone back on their word after telling him his job was safe after the Germany rout in South Africa.

"Grondona lied to me. Bilardo betrayed me," Maradona claimed after his colourful and controversial reign as Argentina coach came to an abrupt end.



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Messi stars as Barca beat K-League All Stars

SEOUL (AFP) - Lionel Messi scored a quick-fire double as Barcelona cruised to a convincing 5-2 win over the K-League All Stars in a friendly at Seoul World Cup Stadium Wednesday.

The Argentinian superstar made his pre-season debut halfway into the game and scored two quick goals, giving his team the spark it needed to notch up an impressive victory.

Barca, dressed in the famous turquoise-coloured strip, looked rusty out of the blocks and were punished after a minute as Choi Sung-Guk scored the opening goal for the K-League All-Stars.

It did not take long for Barcelona to respond, however, as Zlatan Ibrahimovic conjured an equaliser in the sixth minute.

Messi was brought on in the 29th minute to loud applause from the 32,581 crowd.

But his introduction did not stop the K-League All Stars regaining the lead through a header from Lee Dong-Gook in the 36th minute.

That advantage proved short-lived as Messi showed

his skills scoring off a pass from Eduard Oriol Garcia in the 42nd minute.

The diminutive Argentinian struck again three minutes later to give his team a one-goal lead at the end of the first half.

Messi and Ibrahimovic sat out the second half but a Barcelona team consisting of reserve players came out in full control and dominated possession with crisp passing.

The K-League All Stars managed to create a few chances but Victor Sanchez Mata added a goal in the 80th minute and Jonathan Soriano scored three minutes later.

Messi's appearance in the friendly had been in doubt.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola had said Tuesday that Messi -- whose World Cup ended in disappointment as Argentina were humbled 4-0 by Germany in the quarter-finals -- would not feature as he had just returned from holiday and was not match-fit.

However, following a hastily-arranged meeting with the promoters, the Catalan club issued a statement saying that Messi would play a role after all.



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Roddick breezes while Verdasco battles to advance

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US second seed Andy Roddick cruised into the third round of the ATP Washington Classic on Tuesday while Spanish third seed Fernando Verdasco was forced to save two match points in order to advance.

Roddick, a three-time Washington champion, defeated Slovenian qualifier Grega Zemlja 6-4, 6-4, the ninth-ranked power server taking the only two break points of the match to win in 84 minutes.

"I accomplished what I wanted to... get back to playing clean tennis, things that don't show up in the stat sheet but that win matches," Roddick said. "I can improve a little but I got what I wanted out of the match."

"It was a good opportunity to find some rhythm, get my feet under me, get into the tournament and the summer. When I move the ball well and get my teeth into points, that's a solid match."

Verdasco rescued two match points in the ninth game of the second set and rallied to defeat Germany's Michael Berrer 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (8/6).

The 10th-ranked Spaniard, who won at San Jose and Barcelona earlier this year, nearly lost for the fourth time in five matches since reaching the round of 16 at the French Open before battling back.

"I was just trying to play my best to the end," Verdasco said. "Even match points

down I was just trying to put the ball in and make him put the ball in."

"I got a little lucky."

Czech top seed Tomas Berdych, the runner-up to Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon, opens after a bye with a Wednesday match against Russian Dmitry Tursunov.

Roddick booked a third-round match against Frenchman Gilles Simon, who ousted Russian qualifier Igor Kunitsyn 6-1, 6-2.

Verdasco will next face US qualifier Ryan Sweeting, who ousted Frenchman Michael Llorda 6-4, 6-2, on Thursday for a spot in the Friday quarter-finals of the 1.4 million-dollar hardcourt event, a US Open tuneup.

Berrer, ranked 47th, roared ahead 5-2 but squandered two match points with errant backhands and was broken by Verdasco in the ninth and 11th games to launch his comeback.

At 6-6 in the tie-breaker Verdasco hurt his left big toenail and stayed on the court briefly, then rose and won the match when Berrer sent a forehand long and a backhand into the net.

American Mardy Fish stretched his career-best win streak to 11 matches by beating Serbian Viktor Troicki 6-4, 6-3. Fish won titles last month at Newport and Atlanta and has jumped from 79th to 35th in the rankings since dropping 33 pounds to a trim 170.

Rodriguez belts 600th career home run



Alex Rodriguez #13 of the New York Yankees celebrates his 600th career home run in the first inning against the Toronto Blue Jays with teammate Derek Jeter #2

NEW YORK (AFP) - New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez belted his 600th Major League Baseball home run Wednesday, becoming the youngest of only seven players to reach the milestone.

The landmark blast came after a 12-game stretch without a homer from "A-Rod" and it came three years to the day after he hit his 500th career home run.

Rodriguez's drive off a 2-ball, no-strike pitch from Toronto's Shaun Marcum in the first inning flew over the centerfield wall at Yankee

Stadium for his 17th homer of the season, giving the Yankees a 2-0 lead over the Blue Jays.

The ball - the 104th specially marked one used for his times at bat since he reached 599 homers - landed in Monument Park, an area where Yankees greats are memorialized, and a stadium worker retrieved the ball for him.

Rodriguez joined an elite collection of Major League Baseball legends that includes record-holder Barry Bonds with 762 homers, Hank Aaron with 755, Babe

Ruth on 714, Willie Mays on 660, Ken Griffey Jr on 630 and Sammy Sosa at 609.

Performance-enhancing drugs, the scourge of baseball for years, taints the feat for Rodriguez, however.

Last year, Rodriguez admitted to using steroids while he played for the Texas Rangers from 2001 through 2003, when they were not yet banned under major league rules.

Teammates on the reigning World Series champions raised their hands and the crowd roared as Rodriguez raised his arms once the ball cleared the fence.

After trotting around the bases and being congratulated in the dugout, Rodriguez stepped back out for a curtain call to warm applause.

Bonds became the fourth man in the past decade to crack the 600 career-homer mark, joining Sosa, Griffey and Bonds after a 31-year gap.

The Yankees began selling commemorative T-shirts of the feat for 25 dollars each during the game.

The quest for 600 had taken a toll in recent days. Rodriguez was 9-for-46 at the plate since hitting his 599th homer on July 22 and the gap between that blast and number 600 was the longest for any of the seven to hit so many.

Rodriguez, who turned 35 last month, reached 600 ahead of the previous youngest to make the mark, Ruth in 1931 at age 36. But Ruth needed fewer games to reach 600 homers, just 2,044 to Rodriguez's 2,227.

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Plenty at stake for Woods at Firestone



AKRON (AFP) - Defending champion Tiger Woods has plenty at stake as he goes for his first win of 2010 at the 8.5 million-dollar Bridgestone Invitational starting here on Thursday.

Woods has never gone through the first seven months of the year without posting a victory, but this has been no ordinary season.

He has played a sparse schedule while dealing with the fallout of an apparently broken marriage in the wake of multiple affairs.

But Woods could not pick a more conducive venue to break his 2010 duck, at the Firestone course he all but

owns, with seven victories in 10 starts here since the event became a World Golf Championships tournament.

A win, or even a strong finish, would boost his fragile confidence going into next week's US PGA Championship, the year's final major.

It would also sew up a spot on the American Ryder Cup team. He currently is ninth on the standings, one spot outside an automatic slot on the side to defend its trophy against Europe in October.

Woods refused even to contemplate the question of whether he would accept one of captain Corey Pavin's four

wild card picks if he didn't make the team automatically.

"I'm planning on playing my way into the team," he said, repeating the same words three times when pressed on the wild card issue.

"I love playing here. It's not target golf and I've always liked that.

"Of late I've been driving the ball so much better. (My) iron game has been spotty and I just haven't putted well all year. If I clean all that up, hopefully (I can) put together at least these two weeks."

Woods usually refuses to talk about his private life but he made a couple of references to it when discussing the difficulty of focusing on his golf this year.

"It has been a long year, a long 10 months. I haven't practiced as much as I used to, and nor should I. My kids are more important.

"I've just got to be more efficient with what I do and when I do it.

"It's been difficult, a trying time for a lot of people who are friends. It's not only concentration, but also preparation and I haven't been able to practice for as long as normal when I've been out here.

"People have been wanting more of my time and I've had more things going on once I'm at a tournament site than I have in the past, and for different reasons.

"I've been through periods like this before and you've just got to keep being patient, keep putting the pieces together and when they do come, that's usually when I will win a few tournaments."

Actually, Woods hasn't quite been through a period like this, but he was referring to 1998, when he won only once while making major swing changes.

McGee replaces Lopez as US still short on big men

NEW YORK (AFP) - Washington's JaVale McGee replaced New Jersey center Brook Lopez on the US roster of NBA players preparing for the World Championships as the Americans struggle to field big men for the tournament.

McGee joins Tyson Chandler as the only centers on the US roster after the departure of Lopez, who has been fighting mononucleosis.

Lopez told USA Basketball on Wednesday that he did not consider himself well enough to take part in next week's training camp in New York.

"Although it will be disappointing not to see Brook compete in the upcoming FIBA world championship, the Nets fully support his decision to stop training with Team USA," Nets general

manager Billy King said in a statement.

"Brook obviously felt that he had not made sufficient enough recovery from his bout with mononucleosis earlier this summer, but we feel confident he will be fully recovered by the start of training camp on September 25."

Lopez had struggled during workouts last month in Las Vegas but was in the lineup of players preparing to play in Turkey at the world championship starting later this month.

McGee had worked with the US team in Las Vegas but was not selected for the 15-man preliminary roster originally.

Lopez joined Amare Stoudemire, David Lee and his brother Robin as top big men who did not join the US squad.



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